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INFO RUEHNE/AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI 9567
RUEHIL/AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD 1446
RUEHKT/AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU 8880
RUEHLM/AMEMBASSY COLOMBO 7726
RUEHGO/AMEMBASSY RANGOON 2504
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E.O. 12958: DECL: 01/16/2017
TAGS: [PTER](#) [PGOV](#) [PREL](#) [KISL](#) [BG](#)
SUBJECT: MORE JMB ARRESTS AND SEIZURES

REF: A. DHAKA 66
[1](#)B. DHAKA 44
[1](#)C. DHAKA 41

Classified By: Ambassador Patricia A. Butenis; reason 1.4(d).

[1](#)1. (SBU) Local media report that the Rapid Action Battalion (RAB) used confessions from Hasan Ali (alias Hridoy) and Shoeb (alias Jahir Nuruzzaman or Zahir Nuruzzaman), who were arrested January 10 (ref B), to raid another Jamaatul Mujahedeen Bangladesh (JMB) house on January 12 in Karatia Bazar in Sadar upazila, Tangail (approximately 50 km northeast of Dhaka). The home was rented by Selim Miah (Alias Babu), who managed to escape arrest during the raid.

[1](#)2. (SBU) The new arrestee is identified as "Arman," a 25-year-old son of Liakat Khan of Hilara Abadari village in Mirzapur upazila. RAB reportedly seized bomb-making materials and other items at the house, including 800 grams of lead nitrate (a component for detonators), 500 grams of zinc oxide, 100 grams of carbon powder, 53 audio cassettes, 16 circuit boards, 11 film negatives, three cartridges, masks, and a mobile phone. Arman is in police custody at the Tangail Sadar police station.

[1](#)3. (SBU) In a separate action, RAB, acting on a tip-off, arrested three JMB activists in Rangpur on January 13 and recovered 56 500-gram Power Gel explosive packs. The three arrestees are Hosen Ali and Mojibor Miah, and Abul Khaer of Khoddo Tarnat in Sadar upazila.

[1](#)4. (S) Media reports link the January 7, 10, and 12 arrests to information derived from Abdul Rahman, arrested December [1](#)29. At this time, however, Post can only confirm that the January 12 raid stemmed from the January 10 arrests and that the December 30 raids and January 7 arrests stemmed from the December 29 arrests (refs B and C.) The January 13 action in Rangpur does not appear related to the other actions.

[1](#)5. (SBU) JMB's stated goals continue to be: disrupting national elections because democracy is an alien, Western concept; forcing the release or stay of execution of the seven senior JMB leaders sentenced to death for the 2005 bombing campaign; combating institutions like the judiciary that perpetuate non-Islamic concepts; and implementation of a severe form of sharia law.

COMMENT

[1](#)6. (S) At this point, it is unclear whether the new JMB arrests reflect resurgent terrorist activity or what their actual targets or objectives might be. The good news is that government security forces were apparently not so distracted by the current political crisis that they neglected their

counterterrorist mission. We are in close touch with government authorities to encourage appropriate follow-up action and to share information with us fully and promptly. We will report developments as they occur.
BUTENIS